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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Kremmling Field Office  
P.O. Box 68  
Kremmling, CO 80459**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

### **A. Background**

BLM Office: Kremmling Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No.: N/A

Number: DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0036-CX-Laramie River Guest Ranch Cattle Drives

Proposed Action Title/Type: Laramie River Guest Ranch Cattle Drives

Location of Proposed Action: T. 12 N., R. 77 W. Sec. 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36;  
T. 12 N., R. 76 W. Sec. 29, 30, 31, 32;  
T. 11 N., R. 76 W. Sec. 6;  
T. 11 N., R. 77 W. Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5;

Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would authorize and amend Laramie River Guest Ranch's Special Recreation Permit to conduct cattle drives on BLM administered lands within the Laramie River area of Larimer County. Laramie River Guest Ranch is currently authorized for commercial horseback trail rides on BLM administered lands within the proposed area of cattle drive operations. The owners and employees of Laramie River Guest Ranch have assisted the Hohnholz Ranch with moving cattle between pastures on private, State Trust and BLM administered lands. This year, Laramie River Guest Ranch applied for and received the recreational lease for State Trust Lands within the proposed area of operations for their horseback trail rides and to conduct cattle drives. These State Trust lands are adjacent to or surrounded by BLM administered lands. The Hohnholz Ranch has grazing authorizations with the BLM and State Trust Land for Allotment #07256. The Proposed Action would authorize Laramie River Guest Ranch for cattle drives on BLM administered lands of Allotment #07256 during the period of time the Hohnholz grazing lease permits cattle to be within the allotment boundaries.

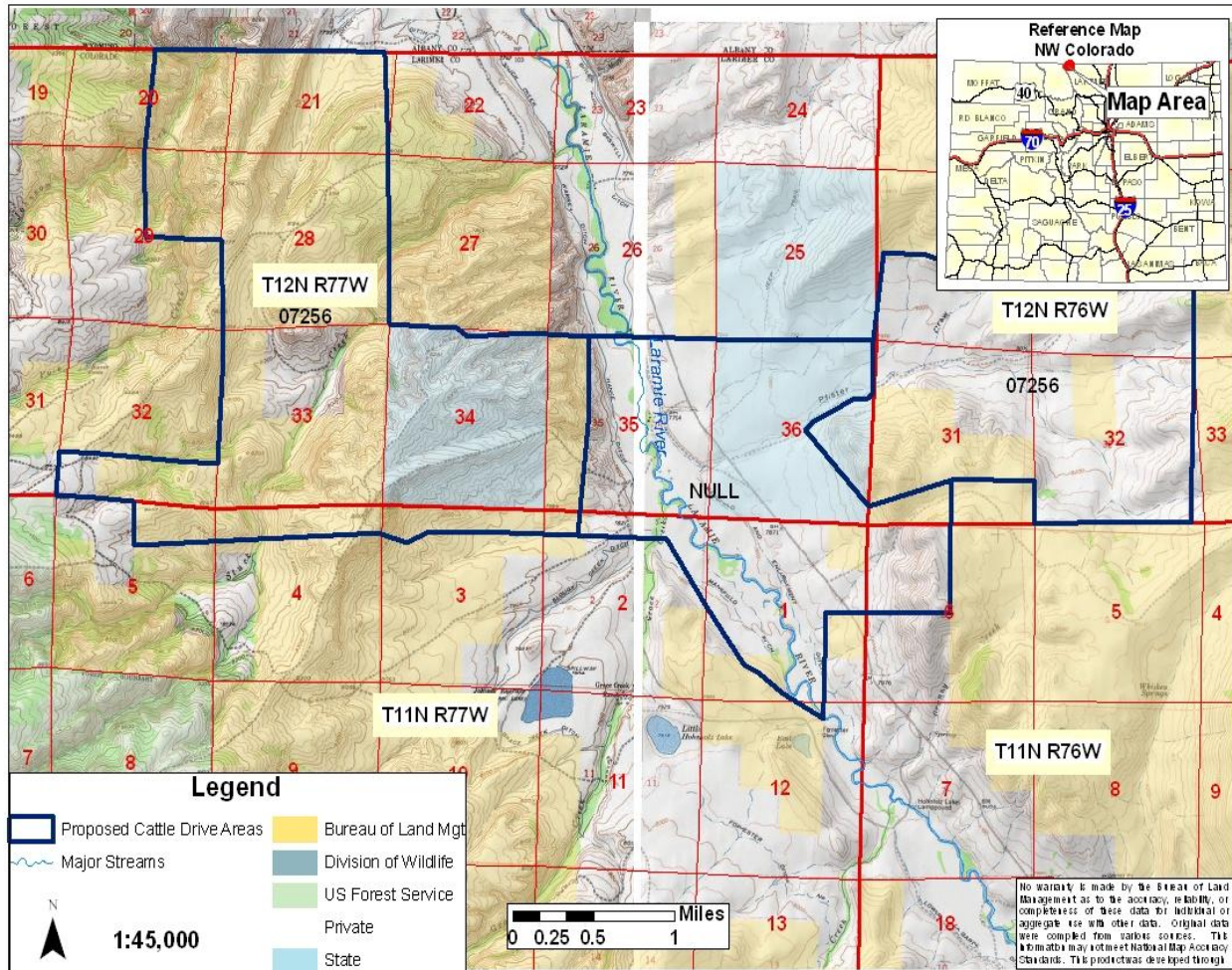
Authorizing cattle drives would provide a recreational opportunity for guests of Laramie River Guest Ranch which is not currently permitted by the BLM or readily available or offered from other sources within the Laramie River area. The use of horses to move cattle within the allotment would assist in sustaining the overall health of the allotment by reducing the concentrated impact that may occur if the cattle congregate and stay in specific areas. While this

area is currently designated as “Open”, utilizing horses to move cattle instead of motorized modes of travel would have less of an impact to the existing vegetation and soils.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, Laramie River Guest Ranch would be denied authorization to provide a recreational opportunity that is not readily available in the Laramie River area limiting their access and authorization to conduct such activities on State Trust Lands and the private lands owned by the Hohnholz. Cattle would continue to congregate in specific areas and continue to have adverse impacts to those areas by the lack of movement within the allotment.



# Laramie River Guest Ranch Proposed Cattle Drives



## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD) \_ Date Approved/Amended: December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions(s):

Decision Number/Page: Decision Number II B 7a/ Page 11

Decision Language: a. Objective. "To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety, and resource interpretation."

## C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1,

## 1.5 H. Recreation Management

*(1) Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for "Special Area" management (43 CFR 2932.5).*

## INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility	Date Review Completed
John Monkouski	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation	3/19/10
Bill Wyatt	Archeologist	Cultural	4/5/2010
Frank Rupp	Archaeologist	Paleontology	3/31/2010
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Species	3/26/10
Paula Belcher	Hydrologist	Soil, Water, Air, and Riparian	4/5/2010
Richard Johnson	Rangeland Management Specialist	Vegetation, Range Management, Weeds	4/14/2010
Susan Cassel	Assistant Field Manager	NEPA	5-26-2010

**D. Signature**

Authorizing Official: \_\_/s/ Susan Cassel\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_5-26-2010\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Name: \_\_Susan Cassel\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_Acting Field Manager\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact John Monkouski; Outdoor Recreation Planner; Kremmling Field Office, PO Box 68, Kremmling, CO 80459, (970)724-3040.

**DECISION RECORD**  
**CX# DOI-BLM-CO-120-2010-0036-CX**

DECISION: It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in the attached CX.

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Water Act. This decision is also in conformance with the LUP and other applicable laws, regulations and policies.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action and have determined that it does not represent an extraordinary circumstance and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

RATIONALE: The proposed action to authorize and amend Laramie River Guest Ranch's Special Recreation Permit to conduct cattle drives on BLM administered lands within the Laramie River area of Larimer County was chosen to provide a recreational opportunity for guests of Laramie River Guest Ranch which is not currently permitted by the BLM or readily available or offered from other sources within the Laramie River area. The use of horses to move cattle within the allotment would assist in sustaining the overall health of the allotment by reducing the concentrated impact that may occur if the cattle congregate and stay in specific areas.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Susan Cassel

DATE SIGNED: 5-26-2010